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FTA news

FOOD TOBACCO AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA—CIO

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NLRB Elections Being Held In 73 Cannery Canneries

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

By Dolph Winebrenner, Cannery Drive Publicity Director

San Francisco, Oct. 8 — California CIO and FTA swung into an all-out effort to win bargaining rights for 60,000 Northern California Cannery workers this week as the first election was scheduled in approximately 73 fruit and vegetable canneries where FTA and AFL Teamsters will battle it out in the next ten days.

Over opposition from the Teamsters, the NLRB ordered elections in all plants of the California Processors and Growers and in 15 independent canneries during the present tomato pack. The first election is to be held Wednesday, October 10, at the giant Libby plant at Sunnyvale, and others will follow between now and October 19.

Meanwhile, wage rates in at least three canneries were raised immediately following the distribution of circulars announcing the demand for immediate wage increases of 15c per hour and a 20% raise in piece rates, retroactive to August 14, made at the FTA Northern California cannery workers conference two weeks ago. Workers also demanded time-and-a-half pay after 8 hours a day and 40 hours a week, as well as the immediate settlement of grievances.

FTA demands forced the Teamsters to make similar demands, and there were indications that FTA might force a general wage increase.

CIO dried fruit workers in San Jose, a large canning center, meantime, ended a short strike when they won a 7½c an hour increase and arbitration of their demand for an additional 7½c. Many of the dried fruit plants are owned by the California Packing Corporation, Richmond-Chase and other firms also operating canneries.

Organizers from a score of CIO unions were thrown into the field to work for FTA by the California CIO, as California CIO Pres. James Thimes and Secy. Mervyn Rathborne announced that the State CIO with its 200,000 members would lend every possible assistance to the FTA drive.

"CIO President Philip Murray has instructed the California CIO to back the FTA drive to the hilt," California CIO Pres. Thimmes and Secy. Rathborne said.

Workers From The Shops Tell Senators About

The Need For A Living Wage

Washington, D. C. — The demand for a 65c minimum hourly wage were dramatically presented to Congress at the Senate Labor subcommittee hearings on the Pepper Bill (S. 1349) on Sept. 27. Gladys Bellows, FTA Local 178 member from Traverse City, Michigan and five other CIO members presented their difficulties in making ends meet squarely to the committee.

"I've worked at the Cherry Growers cannery for 13 years," said Mrs. Bellows, the mother of eight children. "We used to make 20c an hour. Now my pay is 50c—$15.80 a week take-home pay for 40 hours." Mrs. Bellows' husband makes only 71c an hour, so that she has to work to keep things going at home.

"Sixty-five cents an hour isn't too much," she said, "it's too little." She showed how difficult a time she has stretching their pay now with $79 a month to pay out on a 5-room bungalow house they are building.

Explaining that she once worked a 91-hour week during the season without a cent of overtime, she said, "I can't for the life of me understand why cannery workers should not have overtime pay like everyone else."

Union Won Overtime

Through contract negotiations, Mrs. Bellows showed how FTA had been able to remove the exemptions at her plant. "This last year we got time-and-a-half pay for working over 40 hours a week. We worked eight hours a day, six days a week. And the plant is still flourishing while paying overtime, with more people employed now than ever before. In fact, they are building a nice new building right now," she said.

Young Shirley Hall, a twenty-two year old textile worker from the South, told of the difficulties her family had making ends meet. Leaving high school to help her father support a family of nine by working 9½ hours a day, with no lunch period, Shirley worked her way up to 63c an hour running 36 looms at a piece work rate. Her father never made more than 50c an hour. She considered herself lucky because her mother was able to stay home with the youngsters last year. But, now with cutbacks, Shirley is afraid her mother will have to go back to work again, leaving a baby sister and brother uncared for.

Senator Johnson (D., South Carolina) asked her if she knew that he went to work when he was 11 years old for 50c a day. "My daddy did, too," she replied, "but it's showing on him now."

The living and pay conditions of a serviceman's wife was described by Mrs. Frances Garcia, a New York Western Union worker, member of the American Communications Assn., and mother of a 21-month old baby girl. She works for $21 weekly take-home pay. Mrs. Garcia asked that her husband, who is overseas, be given a chance to earn a decent wage when he returned so that she "can raise my children the way I really want to." Even with her Army allotment, Mrs. Garcia has nothing left over for "incidental expenses, recreation and a chance to live decently."

Charles C. Burke, a clothing worker of Lebanon, Pa., said he spent 5½ years in the Army, saw action on many European fronts and is now working in a garment factory for 50c an hour. He said, "I'm a married man and I think I should be making more. I volunteered for the Army because my country needed men. I fought for an enduring peace. Now I think our country should make our fight worth while."

"65c an hour isn't too much — it's too little," Gladys Bellows (above) told the Senate Labor subcommittee on Sept. 27. Mrs. Bellows, a member of Local 178, Traverse City, Mich., was one of six CIO members who told Senators to pass the Pepper Bill for a 65c minimum wage in order to raise living standards for the people.

Seamen Underpaid

A similar story was told by Arnold Frasser of Baltimore. He is a Negro merchant seaman, National Maritime Union member, seaman for 12 years and a veteran of almost every invasion of the war. He has a wife and three children. He earns 34c an hour for a straight 56-hour week of which he sends home an average of $19 a week to feed the family. He could have taken a higher paid job in a Baltimore shipyard, he said, but "I'm a seaman and I wanted to deliver the goods." Frasser spoke of the big wage cuts faced by merchant seaman through elimination of their wartime bonus.

Mrs. Winifred Burr, a member of the United Electrical Radio and Machine Workers, is a final inspector in a New York safety razor plant. A middle-aged widow, she has a skilled job which nets her 58c an hour. That adds up to $25.85 take-home for a 45-hour week, although she averages around $21 a week. On this she supports her 92-year-old mother and herself.

These six CIO rank-and-filers, talking to their Senators put flesh and blood on the testimony presented earlier in the week by Secretary Schwellenbach and others who favored the bill to raise the present 40-cent minimum to 65c now and 75c later on.

South Sees Increase of Hate Groups

New York, N. Y. — The Ku Klux Klan and other native fascist organizations are spreading in the South, Dr. Clark Foreman, President of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, told a press conference here recently.

Foreman, who just returned from a tour of a number of Southern states, charged that "these organizations are financed by Northern business interests who wish to see Southern labor weak and divided."

Among the organizations which are now spreading the doctrine of race hate and anti-unionism in the South, Foreman said, are the Commoner Party in Georgia, Sons of Dixie in Tennessee, the Christian Veterans Assn., and the Christian American Assn.

Unless the activities of these outfits are halted, he said, new outbreaks of violence can be expected in the South such as were provoked by the KKK after the last war. Foreman and Dr. Channing Tobias, New York Chairman of the Southern Conference, said the way to stifle these groups on economic grounds would be through a permanent Fair Employment Practices Commission and jobs for all.

KKK Bosses Decide To Boycott Unions

Witchita, Kans. — A recent meeting of the Ku Klux Klan here passed a resolution demanding that all KKK employers "refuse to hire anyone who possesses a union card."

The KKK in Witchita now has a membership of 875. Initiation fees are $50.

THE NEEDED LIFT!

Action From People Back Home Will Change Situation In Washington

By Connie Anderson, Education and Political Action Director

THIS is a call to every FTA local to organize for Political Action, carefully with determination to lead your membership into active, effective work.

The situation in Washington is dark. There is a gang-up against measures to promote full employment, the 65c minimum and all other programs to keep this country going forward so everybody can earn a living. (Last week I talked to some Senators who say 65c is too high, and that we will return to pre-war production levels —and millions of unemployed.)

Action from the people back home is the only means of changing the present situation. Already delegates coming in from New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania have helped to shake Congress a little. Action in all forms from back home must be stepped up.

Get Well-Organized

Your local gets directions for action from FTA through the Washington Newsletter and special communications, and from State and City CIO Councils. You must be well organized in your local to carry out these directions. I must report to a PAC meeting of all the National CIO Unions late in October how each of our locals has organized its PAC work.

Your PAC Committee is immediately responsible for:

- Letter-writing by the membership;
- An interview with your Congressman when he is home;
- Guaranteeing the success of the 1945-1946 $1 PAC collection. (Information on this will come to your local Secretary-Treasurer from Int. Secy.-Treas. Harold J. Lane.)
- Delegations to Washington if you are near enough;
- Distribution of literature.

Your Committee should involve people outside the Union in our program for post-war America. Literature should be given to farmers, storekeepers, preachers, etc., and their support enlisted in writing their Congressmen. This is very important.

Our opponents are trying to make out that CIO has a narrow program of "grab" for its own members only. Our program means full production, prosperity for farmers and all working people. We must help those outside our ranks to speak out, too.

One immediate job for FTA locals is the distribution of the new PAC pamphlets and leaflets.

For Distribution

"Now" and "Don't Let Our Workers Starve" are small leaflets explaining the CIO's legislative program for full employment, wage increases, jobless aid, the 65c minimum and greater social security. A bundle of these has been sent to each local President. More of these can be ordered directly from PAC at $1.82 per thousand.

"Let Our People Live" is the latest PAC pamphlet describing the need for a 65c minimum wage. These can be secured at $4.15 per 100 copies direct from PAC, 205 East 42nd Street, New York 19, N. Y.

Tell It To Congress

THE OFFICIAL physician for Congress issued a statement the other day prescribing "fewer letters from constituents" as a cure for high blood pressure *of his patients. We prescribe MORE LETTERS FROM CONSTITUENTS as a cure for LOW WAGES AND INSECURITY suffered by the people of the United States. Let 'em have it!*

65c Minimum Wage (S 1349)

Senate hearings now going on discussing Pepper Bill to raise minimum wages and extend wage-hour protection to agricultural processing and other workers. House Labor Committee hearings start Oct. 15.

ACTION: Flood Congress with letters. Enlist your whole community. (See stories on pages 1 and 2.)

Jobless Aid (S 1274 and HR 3891)

Senate version extends present inadequate unemployment benefits to 26 weeks; includes federal government and maritime workers; turns USES back to states. House Ways and Means Committee shelved even this watered-down measure, so we get nothing. Rep. Bradley (D., Pa.) circulating petition now demanding the House Committee report out the Forand Bill (containing $25 maximum provision).

ACTION: Wire your Representatives to sign Rep. Bradley's petition and to fight for inclusion of agricultural processing workers in any bill which is passed.

Poll Tax Repeal (HR 7)

Senate Judiciary Committee reported favorably, but also reported O'Mahoney amendment providing for constitutional amendment which would take 25 years to ratify. Bilbo & Co. have promised not to filibuster against phony O'Mahoney substitute. The fight is for passage of HR 7 and nothing else!

ACTION: Wire Senator Barkley to put HR 7 on calendar ahead of amendment. Wire your own Senators to support HR 7 and move to prevent filibuster.

Full Employment Bill (S 380 and HR 2202)

Originally drafted to guarantee jobs for all, but Senate bill passed with so many "if's" and "buts" that it is almost meaningless.

ACTION: Tell your Representative to support original bill and eliminate weakening amendments.

Address all Senators: Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.
Address all Representatives: House Office Building, Washington, D. C.

Ask Truman to Send Food to Europe

Washington, D. C. — "Starvation still threatens in Europe this winter," the representatives of more than 50,000,000 Americans told President Truman recently. "Only with help from this country can resulting anarchy be averted."

Spokesmen for 26 national organizations called on the President at the White House to urge speed in sending food to hungry people overseas.

A total of 47 national organizations signed an appeal to the President. Among them were the CIO, AFL, the General Federation of Women's Clubs, the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, the National Council of Catholic Men, the National League of Women Voters, and the National Farmers Union.

65c

MRS. GLADYS BELLOWS, a member of Local 178 in Traverse City, Michigan, told Senators on Sept. 25 that people can't live on less than 65c an hour. (See story on page 1.) Other FTA members will testify before the Senate Labor and Education Committee this month when FTA will present its formal brief in favor of the Pepper Bill.

* * *

COMPROMISE WITH WHAT? Some Senators seem terribly anxious to compromise on the Pepper Bill and settle for a 55c minimum, instead of 65c. That's no compromise at all, since the WLB has already set 55c as a minimum. Such a surrender on the Pepper Bill must be fought against sharply.

* * *

SECRETARY OF LABOR Lewis Schwellenbach was one of those who appeared before the Senate Committee to speak in favor of the 65c minimum. Telling the Senators that the Fair Labor Standards Act should be amended to raise the minimum wage from 40c to 65c, the Secretary said:

"Congress in 1938 did not intend that a 40c minimum should represent the final goal . . . rather, a reasonable beginning toward the ultimate goal: 'a minimum standard of living necessary for health, efficiency, and well-being of workers'."

* * *

ARGUMENTS presented by Schwellenbach in favor of the Pepper Bill were:

- That the 65c minimum is needed to adjust incomes to prices. The 40c minimum brings an annual income of only $800. Even the $1,300 annually provided by a 65c minimum wage is scarcely "sufficient to meet the minimum budget of the average working man."
- That wages are directly related to purchasing power. With higher wages, and resulting higher purchasing power, industry, business and farmers also benefit.
- That when a wage floor is set, industry finds ways to improve efficiency. "Our high wage economy has shown that it can outproduce low wage economies by maintaining a higher degree of productive efficiency."
- That it is necessary to extend minimum wage and overtime pay coverage to agricultural processing industries. Thus, all workers will have an equal "minimum American standard of living," and more workers will be attracted to work in those industries formerly paying the lowest wages.

* * *

SENATOR ELLENDER (D., La.) argued with Secretary Schwellenbach that prices will have to go up if the Pepper Bill were passed. Prices may go up on a few items, Schwellenbach replied, but we must weigh this against the importance of maintaining purchasing power.

"The same argument was used against the 40c minimum," Schwellenbach reminded the Senator.

Answering Ellender's sob-story that the South could not stand such a "sudden change" in wage scale, the Secretary of Labor said:

"If we are going to build up a national economy sufficient to consume our products, we cannot have different wage standards."

* * *

AN ANNUAL WAGE of $1,950 is a "maintenance budget" for a family in 1945, a spokesman for the Bureau of Labor Statistics told the Senate Committee on Education and Labor.

On the basis of a 40 hour week for 50 weeks, a 65c hourly wage yields $1,300 annually, or $650 less than the "maintenance budget." Expenses in the budget are minimum — including food, clothing, housing and some medical care. Anything less than that would endanger the health standard of the family, the Senate was told.

Statement of Ownership

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACTS OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, and March 3, 1933, FTA News, published twice a month from Sept. to July inclusive and monthly in Aug., at New York, N. Y., for Oct. 15, 1945.

State of New York,
County of New York, SS:

Before me, a Notary Public, in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared Bertie Selden, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that she is the editor of the FTA News and that the following is, to the best of her knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, as amended by the Act of March 3, 1933, embodied in Section 537, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher, Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers Union, CIO, 1505 Race St., Philadelphia 2, Pa.; Editor, Bertie Selden, 1505 Race St., Philadelphia 2, Pa.; Managing Editor, None; Business Managers, None.

2. That the owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding one per cent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, of stockholders owning or holding one the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a firm, company, or other unincorporated concern, its name and address, as well as those of each individual member must be given.) Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers Union, CIO, 1505 Race St., Philadelphia 2, Pa.; Donald Henderson, President, 1505 Race St., Philadelphia 2, Pa.; Harold J. Lane, Sec'y-Treas., 1505 Race St., Philadelphia 2, Pa.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: None.

4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds, or other securities than as so stated by her.

Bertie Selden, Editor

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 24th day of September, 1945. Thos. R. Barby. (My commission expires Jan. 5, 1947.)

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FTA Protests to NLRB On AFL Jim Crow Unions

Washington, D.C.—FTA has once more come before the Nat'l Labor Relations Board to protest the setting up of separate Negro and white locals by the AFL in the Larus Brothers' tobacio plant in Richmond, Virginia. Opposing the request of the AFL Tobacco Workers International Union for certitification of two unions in the Larus plant—one for white members, and the other for Negroes—FTA has demanded an oral hearing before the NLRB.

In a brief filed with the NLRB on Oct. 3, Nathan Witt, attorney for FTA, declared that it is "**improper under the National Labor Relations Act to certify two labor organizations in one unit when such labor organizations are set up on racial lines.**"

The AFL tobacco union was bargaining agent for the Larus Brothers' manufacturing plant for the past year, with colored members belonging to Local 219-B and white members to the parent local, 219. As a result of objections raised by FTA and other organizations that this setup is discriminatory, the NLRB ruled on June 30 that the AFL certification names only the white local, giving the Negro local no legal standing.

Oppose AFL Request

The NLRB suggested, however, that the AFL file a new petition for two separate locals, thus indicating the Board's approval to Jim Crow unions. The AFL is now asking for certification for two locals in the Larus plant, and FTA is opposing this request.

FTA is also asking that Local 15, which has bargaining rights in the Larus stemmery—a plant close by the manufacturing plant—be added to the ballot.

Other CIO unions actively interested in the Larus situation are the United Automobile Workers and the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, who are fighting similar discrimination cases before the Board. Joining FTA in demanding an oral hearing, the UAW and the UE are asking to be heard at the same time on their motion to have AFL certification revoked in the General Motors case; and the national CIO has asked to be heard in both cases.

Board Violated Policy

FTA's brief before the NLRB asserts that:

- **The establishment of separate, segregated locals is a violation of the Board's own finding that all production and maintenance employees in the manufacturing plant—both white and Negro—belong in one bargaining unit;**
- **Certification by the Board of the two locals organized along racial lines violates national policy and the Fifth Amendment of the U. S. constitution.**

The brief urges the NLRB to enforce its own proven policy of refusal to consider race or color a consideration in determining bargaining rights. **"It would be entirely destructive of the collective bargaining process if race or color were considered a basis for dividing workers,"** the brief asserts.

Supporting FTA's fight on the issue, the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties has declared that the issue in the Larus case **"is the same as that involved in the FEPC fight. While the attention of the labor movement and other progressive forces has been directed to that fight, the exponents of racism have won a major victory in the flank they have executed with the supine aquiescence of the NLRB. This victory can be reversed, however, by immediate action. This fight is really part and parcel of the FEPC fight."**

Win Raises, Union Shop At Siegal Cigar Plant

Camden, N. J.—A 10% to 28% wage increase was negotiated at the Siegal Cigar Co. here, by Local 80, establishing a hiring rate of 55c an hour, with a 5c raise after 30 days and a 65c minimum for employees over 60 days, according to Local 80 Business Agent Anthony Valentino. Some 230 workers employed at the plant will be affected by these wage increases.

An average 5% increase went into effect immediately upon conclusion of negotiations. And another average 15% increase will become effective January 1, when the 1946 contract goes into effect.

Also effective next January 1 are a reopening clause on wages and a Union shop with mandatory check-off.

Members of the Negotiating Committee were: Valentino; Local 80 Pres. Herbert Kling; Shop Chairlady Anna Magee; May Morgan, Florence Levin and Charles Williams. Int. Secy.-Treas. Harold Lane sat in on the final stages of the negotiations.

Score Election Victory At U.S. Tobacco Plant

By Mary Lou Koger, International Organizer

Nashville, Tenn.—Another tobacco plant was added to FTA's growing list when employees of the U. S. Tobacco plant here chose FTA as their bargaining unit by a 97 to 54 vote on September 27. The plant, which manufactures snuff, employs approximately 180 workers — a majority of whom are women earning less than 50c an hour.

A conference with the management will be held in the near future when a proposed contract, now being drafted by the newly-elected Negotiating Committee, will be presented. Members of the Committee representing all departments are: Brothers Austin, Tomlin, Ethridge, Trabue, Cross, and Sisters Demonbreum, Poole and Mason.

A temporary plant unit, which will become a part of Local 150, has already been set up with the following officers: Chairman J. H. Pate, Vice-Chairman B. Martin and Secy. Minnie Fuston.

Regional Director Frank Hargrove and Int. Org. Mary Lou Koger are assisting the Negotiating Committee.

Mary Lou Koger

Bring Wage Case Before The Public

Charleston, S. C.—Local 15's demand for a 15c an hour wage increase to bring the minimum wage at the American Tobacco plant up to 65c an hour is being brought before Charleston citizens who are being asked to send petitions, letters and telegrams to the Company's New York office, according to Local 15 Pres. Reuel Stanfield.

In signing the petitions circulated by the Union, Charleston businessmen, merchants, clergymen, professionals and workers affirm their support of Sen. Pepper's 65c minimum wage bill (S. 1349) and urge establishment of a 65c minimum at American Tobacco.

Recent contract negotiations with the Company won for the workers a 5c an hour increase retroactive to December 15, 1944. However, negotiations broke off with the Union demand for an additional 15c an hour. Company officials said they would take the matter back to the board of directors in New York and let the Union know its decision. Meanwhile, the Union is calling the U. S. Conciliation Service to try to get a settlement through.

Members of the Negotiating Committee are: Stanfield, Dan Reid, S. B. Graham, Odell Bates, John Cummings and Louise Simmons.

Some 1,380 workers are employed at the plant and will be affected by the wage increase. American Tobacco profits for last year were reported at about 20 million dollars after tax deductions.

Local 15, together with the Charleston PAC and the local National Maritime Union, is sponsoring a lecture series in this city called "The New South." Season tickets are being sold for $1.

16-18% Wage Increases Won at DWG; Spurt Campaign for New Members

By Joe Emmons, Business Agent

Lima, Ohio—An average 16 to 18% wage increase was won by the six Deisel-Wemmer-Gilbert cigar locals as the result of a new contract signed on September 28, affecting some 1,600 workers, and covering Ohio locals 60 and 70 in Lima; 71, Van Wert; 72, Findlay; 73, St. Marys; and 58, Detroit, Mich.

The Company, one of the largest manufacturers of cigars, ended 10 months of stalling when the Union called a strike vote in each of the seven plants and received 100% support.

Besides wage increases, the new contract contains a retroactive vacation clause set up on a pro rata basis starting from a half week for six months' service to two weeks for five years.

Other gains were: mandatory check-off, night shift differential, pay for time lost due to injury in the plant, pay at the rate of the higher-paid job in cases of temporary transfer to another job, top seniority to Shop Stewards and Union officers.

Double-time pay was won for all legal holidays and Sunday work; time-and-a-half for all Saturday work. Lost time due to production delays of more than 3 minutes will be paid for by the Company. Employees sent home and recalled, are to receive time-and-a-half plus two-hours minimum call-in pay.

Grievance procedure was improved by a clause specifying that all grievances must be answered by the Company in writing within 24 hours. The Company will pay for lost time in the handling of grievances. Chief Stewards can investigate grievances throughout the plant on any shift.

In the event that any of the D.W.G. plants close, the employees of the closed plants will get hiring preference in any of the other D.W.G. plants and retain their seniority with the Company.

An additional victory was scored when the Company was forced to reinstate with back pay Local 73 Pres. Thelma Miller, who had been discharged without sufficient cause.

Spurred by the winning of the new contract, a drive for new members brought in 130 initiations in the first week, and it is still going strong.

Members of the Negotiating Committee were: Sally Sullivan and Gladys Gorman, Local 70; Nell Fox, Lillian Wegesin and Lenora Mahlmeister, 69; Dorothy Cramer and Myrtle Franks, 72; Esther Conley and Ruth Davis, 71; Thelma Miller and Flossie Mills, 73; Sophie Cichoracki and Hally Sullivan, 58. They were assisted by Regional Director Armando Valdes and Business Agent Joe Emmons.

"Discrimination against one group ...threatens the security of all"

Together We Win

By Philip Murray, President of the CIO

THE policy of the CIO toward the question of discrimination is clear and unequivocal. In our constitution we declare that the object of the CIO is to organize workers "regardless of race, creed, color or nationality, and to unite them for common action into labor unions for their mutual aid and protection."

With this as a base, the CIO has consistently fought the evil of discrimination in the social and economic life of our nation. Within our own ranks, discrimination is rigorously excluded. No question is raised concerning the racial or national origin of a member of the CIO. All members are equally free to participate in the affairs of CIO unions, to run for office, to take a full part in the attainment of CIO objectives. One of our most active committees, the National CIO Committee to Abolish Racial Discrimination, devotes considerable time to interpreting and enforcing our CIO policy.

Equal Opportunity

The CIO believes — and acts on the belief — that all people should have equal opportunity to participate as citizens in the affairs of their country. We stand resolutely opposed to such political discrimination as the polltax and other barriers against full citizenship. We have fought — and still fight —against discrimination in employment. We believe, as did the founders of the republic, that all men are created free and equal, and that their rights cannot and must not be alienated.

We take this stand not only because we believe in justice for all our people, important as that belief is in our daily lives. We take it also for a very practical, bread and butter reason. Discrimination against one group or sector of our population — or against an individual, for that matter— threatens the security of all.

Divide and Rule

The trade unions have learned this lesson by bitter experience. The practice of divide and rule is as old as exploitation itself. It has been, since the dawn of recorded history, the most useful weapon in the arsenal of tyranny. Union men and women who have fought exploitation know how this device has been used to keep them divided and powerless, to set them fighting among themselves rather than uniting for their own betterment.

The great war against Nazism and fascism in Europe, and against slavery in the Pacific and Asia, is the clearest illustration yet afforded of the evil ends served by discrimination. Hitler, Mussolini and every fascist, big and little, who sped them used the weapon of discrimination to rise to power.

The tragic spectacle of Europe's past decade, the millions of innocent dead, the tortured children and the ravaged cities are clear proof that racial hate, based on discrimination, threatens the whole of civilization. Millions of the democratic world's best and most vigorous young men have had to die to destroy this monster.

I do not mean to say that racial discrimination is solely responsible for wars such as that waged by the Nazis and the Japanese. Social and economic factors of poverty, greed, economic agression underlie the desire for world conquest.

They also underlie the practice of discrimination. Appeals to prejudice and hate make most headway in an atmosphere of fierce and unequal competition for an inadequate number of jobs. Sub-standard living and the desperate necessity for survival drive men to emotions and acts they would not contemplate in more decent conditions.

Jobs for ALL

This is why the CIO programs of jobs for all, regardless of racial or national origin, for decent pay, for the guaranteed annual wage and for security are a major contribution to combatting discrimination.

The nation as a whole, as well as its working men and women, suffers when discrimination is permitted or condoned. Again, this fact has been clearly demonstrated in the course of the war against fascist aggression. The "miracles of production" that helped defeat Hitler and Japan could not be achieved while we permit the skill and strength of any racial or national minorities to be wasted or rejected.

The attainment of full production and jobs for all must equally enlist the skill and talent of all the American people, no matter what their origin or color. The war we fight against poverty, disease and insecurity requires our fullest mobilization just as the war against tyranny does.

For this reason, the CIO took the lead in the fight against discrimination as a war measure as well as a measure of simple justice. Our support of the Fair Employment Practice Committee was unwavering from the very start. The will of six million CIO men and women was felt in the recent Congressional campaign over the issue of the FEPC, is being felt now in the struggle to secure it as a permanent government agency.

For the future, the CIO pledges all its resources — and strength and goodwill of six million working men and women — to fight against the mean technique of discrimination. In making this fight, our members realize that the fight is not alone for justice, but in their social and economic interest and in the interest of all the nation.

Local 293 Wins Group Insurance Plan; Employers To Pay Full Cost Of Set-Up

A check for $1,000 is shown being handed to Mrs. Maria Chudkoski by Int. Rep. Joseph Manning in payment for the first claim on Local 293's Group Insurance plan since it went into effect on July 5. Mrs. Chudkoski received the check as beneficiary of her father's, J. Luszniak's life insurance. Brother Luszniak, a member of Local 293, died on July 26. Shown witnessing the deed are (reading l. to r.) Mrs. Chudkoski's husband, Peter; Mrs. Chudkoski; Int. Rep. and Pres. of Local 293 Joseph Manning; Henry Wenning of the Trade Union Agency which arranged the Group Insurance Plan for the Local (standing behind chair); and Bernard Lefkowitz, Mrs. Chudkoski's representative. (Photo by Albert A. Freeman.)

Brooklyn, N. Y. — An ideal group insurance plan involving no cost whatever to the workers covered has been recently negotiated by Local 293, covering some 100 horticultural workers in 6 cemeteries, according to President Joseph Manning. Eight other cemeteries under contract to the Local have similar forms of group insurance. Martin E. Segal and Henry W. Wenning of the Trade Union Agency acted as consultants to Local 293 in arranging the plan.

Under the terms of the contract, the employer will contribute to the Union's Insurance Fund 2 to 3% of his payroll to cover the whole cost of the plan. The plan provides life insurance, accidental death and dismemberment insurance, accident and sickness insurance, surgical expense insurance, as well as hospital benefits.

Any worker covered by Local 293's contract is insured by the plan without any of the red tape that usually goes with applying for insurance, such as medical examinations or qualifications as to sex, age or color.

Types of Benefits

Every member of the Local is insured for $1,000 worth of life insurance, payable on his death to his beneficiary. If the member is unable to work after he reaches 60 years of age, the life insurance is continued automatically.

Accidental death and dismemberment benefits are payable to the amount of $1,000 regardless of whether the accident occurs on or off the job.

Accident and sickness benefits will be paid by the plan each week the worker is unable to work, at the rate of $15 weekly up to 13 weeks. And, should he become ill or unable to work more than once during the year, he is again eligible for the 13-week benefit payments. This also applies to accidents or illnesses which occur outside of working hours. Payment of benefit checks are made by the Union from the Insurance Fund, although the plan is underwritten by the Prudential Insurance Company, one of the largest insurance firms in the country.

Hospitalization

The hospital benefit part of the insurance plan, underwritten by the Associated Hospital Service of New York, provides semi-private bed and board in any one of some 300 hospitals plus hospital costs for x-rays, anesthesia, operating room, etc., for a period of 21 days. To get these benefits, all he has to do is get his doctor to present his Associated Hospital identification card to the desk when he is admitted to the hospital. Should he have to remain more than 21 days, he is entitled to a 50% discount for all hospital expenses after the 21st day.

Hospitalization and surgical benefits also provide maternity care for the women workers covered by the plan.

Very few families can afford to buy such a splendid insurance plan to protect them against loss of income and the heavy expenses that accompany accident, illness or the death of the family wage earner. And, Local 293 members consider their new group insurance plan an important step toward economic security and freedom from worry.

How Many Books?

One CIO book lets you work in any CIO cannery anywhere. Universal transfer—no paying another initiation fee.

Paid Vacations?

The FTA-CIO contract at the Van Camp cannery in San Diego grants vacations AFTER 800 HOURS.

Overloaded Boxes?

FTA-CIO department stewards are always on on the job to enforce the contract, stop chiseling by the company.

Breakdown? No Pay?

FTA-CIO demands pay when the belt breaks down.

Just Grievances of the cannery workers in Northern California (as illustrated above) have been ignored by the AFL Teamsters Union, which has been "wished" on the cannery workers by the AFL. Only since these workers have begun to organize into FTA have their grievances begun to be taken up and settled. Both FTA and the AFL are on the ballot in the NLRB elections now going on throughout the Northern California cannery area. (See story on page 1.)

DON'T BUY DROMEDARY FOODS!

Leaflets being distributed in front of grocery stores by striking Local 207 urge the public not to buy Dromedary foods, which are packed at the Hills Bros. plant, as a gesture of sympathy to the strikers' fight for a living wage. Already, several chain stores in Broolkyn have taken Dromedary products off their shelves and sent them back to the Company.

Bundles of these leaflets have been sent to all FTA locals by International Secy.-Treas. Harold J. Lane, with an appeal to support Local 207's fight.

Campbell Soup Locals Demand 25c Wage Raise

Camden, N. J.—Local 80's demand for a 25c an hour wage increase for some 5,000 workers employed at the Campbell Soup plant here is scheduled to go before U. S. Conciliation Commissioner Peter Manno, as the News goes to press, according to Business Agent Anthony Valentino. Meanwhile, at a membership meeting of more than 1,600 workers on Oct. 7, a motion was passed unanimously authorizing the Local to petition the NLRB for a strike vote under the provisions of the Smith-Connally Act.

Consideration of the strike vote was recommended by the Local's Policy Committee at the meeting, where the Committee revealed that the Company had refused the Union's demand for the 25c an hour increase.

Present at the meeting were the leading officers of Local 194, representing the workers of the Chicao plant of Campbell Soup. Both locals are working together on the wage demands, and the Chicago local is expected to take action similar to Local 80's.

Joint Commibttee

Three other motions passed unanimously at the meeting were: a plan to organize non-union workers in the plant; backing of the 25c an hour increase demand, and a motion authorizing the officers of a special joint committee of Local 80 and Local 194 to call further emergency membership meetings.

Officers of Local 194, Business Agent Paul Gardner, Pres. John Gallacher and Fin. Secy. Veronica Kryzan were present at the meeting, as well as Int. Secy.-Treas. Harold Lane.

The 25c wage increase demand was introduced under the wage reopening clause in the Local 80 contract with Campbell Soup. The contract is a two-year agreement which expires in March, 1947.

How About Profits?

Leaflets distributed to the Campbell Soup workers before the membership meeting explaining the issues around the Union's demands, disclosed that Plant Production Manager John Hoerle had presented three charts in answer to the Union's demand for the increase. The Union said that the "missing link" in the charts was a chart of profits, which were great enough to enable the Company to grant the increase without any difficulty.

Win 10c Raise; Overtime Pay At Reid Murdoch

Rochester, Minn.—Following up on the recent election victory at the Reid-Murdoch plant, Local 59 won major concessions on overtime pay and a 10c hourly increase in settling the wage provisions of their first contract with the Company.

Time and a half will be paid after 8 hours a day, and after 40 hours a week, except for a 14-week exemption period when overtime will start after 10 hours. The agreement involves the first break away in the plant from the wage-hour law which allows unlimited overtime without premium pay in the canning industry.

The 10c hourly increase, retroactive to July 1, establishes a 60c minimum for women and a 70c minimum for men. However, the contract also calls for equal pay for equal work.

Other provisions of the contract are to be settled in negotiations now going on, according to Gunhild Bjorklund, a representative of the CIO State, County and Municipal workers, who has been assisting in negotiations.

Gains Won at Acme-Evans After Three Years' Fight

By Portens Boyd, Reporter

Indianapolis, Ind.—A first contract between Local 84 and the Acme-Evans Milling Co., providing for overtime after 40 hours, a blanket 5c increase retroactive to August 17, and vacations with pay, was signed and ratified by a membership meeting attended by over 95% of the members on Sept. 23. This was a significant victory for Local 84 which fought for 3 years to win a contract.

The major demands in dispute before the War Labor Board were settled after a one-week strike during which the entire plant was closed. Forced by the strike to meet with the Union, the Company finally agreed to the above wages and overtime provisions plus Union recognition; a steward-foreman shop grievance procedure; seniority after 60 days employment; one week vacation with pay for one year's service and two weeks for 5 years' employment.

Local Union officers and Stewards will have top seniority, and Union dues will be collected on Company time in the plant. Although the contract expires on March 31, 1937, negotiations can be reopened in the event that Congress amends the Wages and Hours Law.

Members of the Negotiating Committee were Local Pres. Walter Hill; Int. Org. Kenneth Hirschy; Portens Boyd; Benjamin Barnett; Garold Leslie; Henry Colling; Milton Manfeel and Richard Pleasant.

—Flash—

12-20% RAISES WON AT QUAKER

By J. N. Billings, Reporter

Akron, Ohio — Local 120 ratified a new contract with the Quaker Oats Company here on Oct. 7, providing for pay increases from 12 to 20 percent. Paid holidays and improved vacation plans were also included in the new contract.

ON STRIKE→

Putting everything they have into the fight for decent wages, Local 207 members have been on strike since Sept. 24, when the Hills Bros. Company in Brooklyn, N.Y., refused the Local's demand for a 65c minimum wage. Reporting at Union headquarters (picture at right) early each morning, Union members are dispatched to picket lines around the plant and in front of grocery stores where Hills Bros. products (Dromedary Foods) are sold.

The strike is solid, with veterans who recently came back to work at the plant joining the picket lines enthusiastically. Coffee, buns and sandwiches are served to the picketers at the Union hall, and the Local has been helped considerably by the generous contributions of other FTA local unions.

From 12 to 15 hours a day are put in by Local 207 Executive Board members—Viola Castignola, Acting Pres.; Rose DeCrescenzo, Fin. Secy.; Helen Andricola, Acting Vice-Pres.; and Pauline Camarda, Rec. Secy.

Strike Committee members are Elsie Marchitello, Chairman; Louise Pelo, Connie Mirabito, James DeCrescenzo, Louis Smorta and James Colella.

"The workers are piggish, dear. They aren't satisfied with victory. They want jobs, too."

Rally Urges Break With Franco Govt.

New York, N. Y. — Giant Madison Square Garden rocked with the sound of an old battle slogan of the "premature" anti-fascists on Sept. 24, as 18,000 people shouted: "Make Madrid the tomb of fascism" and cheered demands that General Francisco Franco be prosecuted as a war criminal.

Called by the Spanish Refugee Appeal as a Salute to Spanish Republicans, the 4-hour meeting heard a succession of notable speakers urge that the U. S. government break diplomatic and economic ties with the Franco regime and help restore democracy to the first tireless fighters against fascism.

Franco Guilty

Strongest declaration of the evening was made by Nikolai Novikov, charge d'affairs of the Soviet embassy in Washington, who charged that by sending the Spanish blue division to fight against the Russians, Franco was guilty of "not only hostility against the Soviet Union but also of full solidarity with the German-Italian aggressors."

"By his aggressive actions against the Soviet Union," Novikov said, "Gen. Franco put himself on the same level with Hitler and Mussolini and evidently therefore sought to be prosecuted as a war criminal." Novikov said that nowhere like in the Soviet Union, which has never recognized the Franco government, "would the reestablishment of democracy in Spain be hailed more warmly."

World Federation Of Trade Unions Is Born

By Anthony Jenkinson

Paris (ALN-FP) — By a unanimous standing vote on Oct. 3, the world labor conference here accepted the report of its constitution committee and thus brought into being the new World Federation of Trade Unions.

Delegates, representing more than 75 million workers from all parts of the world, received the birth of the new organization with acclaim and from different parts of the Palais de Chaillot auditorium came cries for singing the Internationale. However, under the chairmanship of Leon Jouhaux of the French Confederation of Labor, the conference — now acting as the first WFTU congress — quickly proceeded to the next business.

Permanent headquarters of the federation will be Paris. An 18-man constitution committee chose Sidney Hillman, head of the CIO delegation, to present its report which was also on a unanimous vote. The fact that Hillman was elected reflects the remarkable role he and the CIO delegation have played in reconciling sharply conflicting opinions and producing unity from a situation which at times threatened to deadlock the conference.

All Labor United

The congress was scheduled to elect a general council and executive committee the following day. While the adopted constitution can be said to represent a defeat of the British plan — an immediate permanent WFTU has been set up and the congress is likely to elect Louis Saillant of France as general secretary rather than Walter Schevenels of the Intl. Federation of Trade Unions — the fact that the vote was unanimous both in the constitution committee and the congress shows that the new organization embodies the basic aspirations and interests of labor throughout the world.

Small Nations

Important amendments to the original draft constitutions have been incorporated into the final version. The executive committee is enlarged from 22 to 26 members in order to give better representation to small nations. The constitution, like the original draft, states that "all members of the executive committee shall be directly elected by a general vote of the congress. It shall represent the congress as a whole and not any particular geographical or trade division thereof."

Members of the executive committee are distributed as follows: USSR 3, U. S. and Canada 3, Britain 2, France 2, Latin America and West Indies 2, Near East and Middle East 1, China 1, Australasia (alternating between Australia and New Zealand) 1, India and Ceylon 1, Africa 1, Scandinavia 1, western Europe 1, southern Europe 1, central Europe 1, eastern Europe 1, trade departments 3. The WFTU general secretary will also be a member of the executive committee.

The executive committee at the first meeting following each regular meeting of the world congress will elect from its members a chairman and six vice chairmen who together with the general secretary will form the WFTU executive bureau, which will be the governing body of the WFTU between meetings of the executive committee.

Permanent Head

Rejecting the British proposal for a temporary general secretary, the constitution states that a permanent general secretary be elected by the general council, not by the congress as stipulated in the draft. The general secretary is responsible to the executive committee but "may be removed only on the action of the general council."

A Russian proposal that the executive bureau appoint two assistant general secretaries "who shall serve under the direction of the general secretary" was adopted. Hillman added that "it should be clearly understood that there is to be a single management — no division of authority."

Trade Departments

Regarding trade departments the constitution states they will be "finally accountable to the general council and executive committee for their activites." For the specific description of the duties of the departments contained in the draft is substituted a general paragraph which leaves the way open for renegotiation with existing secretariats and their incorporation, under conditions of the constitution, in the WFTU.

World Union Leaders, conferring here at an administrative session of the World Trade Congress meeting in Paris, helped to draw up the constitution of the new World Federation of Trade Unions. Left to right: Leon Jouhaux of the French Confederation of Labor; Michael Tarasov of the Soviet Union; Chairman Sidney Hillman of the CIO delegation; Vicente Lombardo Toledano of Mexico; and Secy. Walter Citrine of the British Trades Union Congress. (Federated Pictures.)

AFL Officials Greet World Labor Conference

New York, N. Y. — More than 300 officials of AFL international and local unions sent fraternal greetings and wishes for success Oct. 1 to the Paris world labor conference, officially boycotted by the AFL.

The cable expressed the "hope that soon the AFL will heed the wishes of its membership and decide to make common cause with you in shaping a happier world of the future."

Pointing out that "the aspiration of labor, the world over, is for security and well-being of all," the unionists said these could be achieved only "through united efforts of the trade unions of all nations working toward these common objectives."

Signers of the cable, sent through the Committee for AFL Participation in a World Trade Union Federation, include officials connected with 42 AFL internationals and 125 local unions and central bodies in 25 cities, representing every important craft and section in the U. S.

Among the 42 internationals represented are the machinists, carpenters, operating engineers, teamsters, electricians, painters, printing trades, hotel and restaurant, hatters, bricklayers, building service, state county and municipal, teachers, motion picture operators and musicians.

World Labor

GERMANY: Strong point of organized labor in Germany centers in Berlin, where about 200,000 workers are now organized into 18 unions, including four white collar unions. Reason Berlin outstrips the rest of Germany in union organization is that the Russians, who occupied the city first, encouraged formation of unions, while in the zones occupied by the western allies all union activity was forbidden. That policy was later revised at the Potsdam conference where it was decided to permit union organization throughout the country.

The 18 Berlin unions are united into the Free German Trade Unions, headed by a council of eight men who represent all three of Germany's pre-Hitler labor federations. In the days before the Nazis took power there were about 600,000 organized workers in Berlin.

ITALY: Guisseppe Di Vittorio, secretary of the Italian Confederation of Labor, is reported by Allied Labor News from Moscow as saying that some of the two million unemployed in Italy might be sent to the USSR, which lacks manpower for its reconstruction needs.

The Italian workers would go to the Soviet Union through an agreement with the Soviet labor unions. Di Vittorio is the head of an Italian labor delegation now touring the USSR.

ARGENTINA: The Argentine people will undoubtedly stage a general strike as their reply to the state of siege just reimposed on them by the Peron dictatorship, four Argentine labor leaders predicted at a press conference Sept. 28.

Pausing in New York en route to Paris where they will attend the world labor conference, the four unionists left Buenos Aires with the help of the U. S. embassy just a few days before Vice-Pres. Juan Peron unleashed a new wave of terror in Argentina, ending his brief pretense that democracy would gradually be ladled out to the people.

Reports reaching here simultaneously with the arrival of the union leaders, told of mass arrests in Buenos Aires, unprecedented even in the early days of the dictatorship. The jails are overflowing with leaders of all oppositon parties, newspaper offices have been wrecked and shut down and thousands of democrats are streaming into the countryside and across the borders in search of safety from the police.

EQUAL PAY FOR WOMEN

FOR decades we have been allowing the bosses to cut wages by classifying jobs as "men's" jobs or as "women's" jobs and paying lower rates for "women's" jobs. This is not a problem for the women alone, any more than any other case of discrimination. It is a problem for all of organized labor, because it means fighting the weapon of the bosses to use discrimination against one group to cut the wages of all workers.

In the past couple of years, during the war especially, we have seen the way women have handled jobs — usually called "men's" jobs — as capably as the men who had them before.

Low Paid Industries

We can see where in a plant the hiring of women at lower wages than men would serve to keep down the wage scale in that particular plant. But take a look at industries such as those covered by FTA contracts where women are about 50% of the workers employed. Because these industries are looked upon as traditionally "women's" work, they are as a whole notoriously low-paid, in spite of the fact that the skill involved in the work compares favorably with other industries that are higher paid. Thus the whole industry suffers.

It is time for the unions to break with this tradition and raise the wage levels in these industries by demanding equal pay for equal work, and by abolishing job classifications as "men's" or "women's" through the application of the principle of the "rate for the job." This means basing wage rates on the skill involved in the job and not on the sex of the person who does the job.

How can we do this? First of all, through legislative action, we can fight for the passage of the Equal Pay Bill (S. 1178) introduced in the Senate by Senators Pepper (D., Florida) and Morse (R., Oregon) and which is now in the Senate Committee on Education and Labor.

This bill would make it unlawful for an employer to pay a woman a lower rate than he pays to male employees for work of comparable quantity and quality; or to discharge a woman and replace her with a man unless it was based on seniority, such as returning a job to a veteran.

Enforcement and administration of the bill (officially called the Women's Equal Pay Act of 1945) would be handled by the Women's Bureau of the Dept. of Labor which could, among other things, investigate wage discrimination based on sex, make recommendations on evaluation of job content, job classifications, etc. Above all, industry commitees which would be set up under the Act would be the instrument through which the "rate for the job" principle could be applied.

S. 1178 should not be confused with the "Equal Rights Bill," a phony name for a bill condemned by a resolution passed at our Union's Fifth Annual Convention as a bill which would discriminate against women by wiping out all special laws like those providing for rest periods, health and safety protection, etc., for women.

To Keep Wages Up

Passage of the Equal Pay bill is particularly important now in line with the CIO's program of maintaining purchasing power and take home pay. As Senators Pepper and Morse stated on introducing S. 1178, as reconversion sets in, "there will be increasing pressure to lower wage standards. With the possibility of paying lower wages to women, the chislers will resort to this as a means of reducing their labor costs. The downward spiral in wage rates will be on its way and with it decreased purchasing power, production and employment."

Senator Morse pointed out that the bill conforms with the decisions handed down by the WLB during the war, which established for the first time the principle of equal pay for equal work regardless of sex or race. This same principle which has been made applicable under wartime conditions, Morse insisted, should also apply in times of peace. Both Senators insisted that differential wage rates based on sex is a weak link in the wage structure that must be removed without delay.

Contract Negotiation

FTA has made headway along this line. But lots more can be done. Through contract negotiations, we must fight to eliminate male and female classifications, thus opening up the way to establish the "rate for the job."

An example of how this can be done is shown in the new contract negotiated by Local 80 at the Campbell Soup plant in Camden, N. J. Here, in the past, males under 21 were called "boys" and were paid a lower rate. Through negotiation, the Union succeeded in having all males, regardless of age, classified as men and receiving a man's pay rate.

Now, the next step would be to eliminate all classifications based on sex. For, in the same plant, women who work on filling machines make 65c an hour, while the men who sweep the floors and do general cleaning work (requiring no skill at all) make 73c an hour, earn 7c an hour more, just because they are men. Were the jobs classified according to the skill involved and not the sex of the persons doing them, the whole wage rate structure could be opened up for improvement.

Here are some discriminatory practices to correct wherever we find them:

- **Lower entrance rates for inexperienced women.**
- **Unequal automatic progression — sex differential in rates from entrance to base rate.**
- **Women not given the same opportunity as men for upgrading and promotions.**
- **Lower rates for women working in women's departments on jobs as skilled as many of the men's jobs.**
- **Breakdown of jobs which results in lowering rates and thereby undermining the "rate for the job" policy.**

Remember, this is not merely a simple queston of fighting for the rights of women in industry. It means protecting the wage standards of all workers through fighting the efforts of the bosses to keep down the wages of some 18 million women workers.

There's A Difference!

DON'T be confused between the EQUAL PAY BILL and the "EQUAL RIGHTS" AMENDMENT. The Equal Pay Bill is the only one supported by labor.

The Equal Pay Bill (S 1178) requires equal pay for equal work, regardless of sex, and provides that it would be an unfair wage practice for any employer to do otherwise. Tell your Congressmen to support this bill.

The Equal Rights Amendment (HJ Res. 49) smashes laws protecting women workers, and ends maternity care and child aid. Tell your Congressmen to oppose this amendment.

Support The Victory Loan

TO ALL FTA MEMBERS:

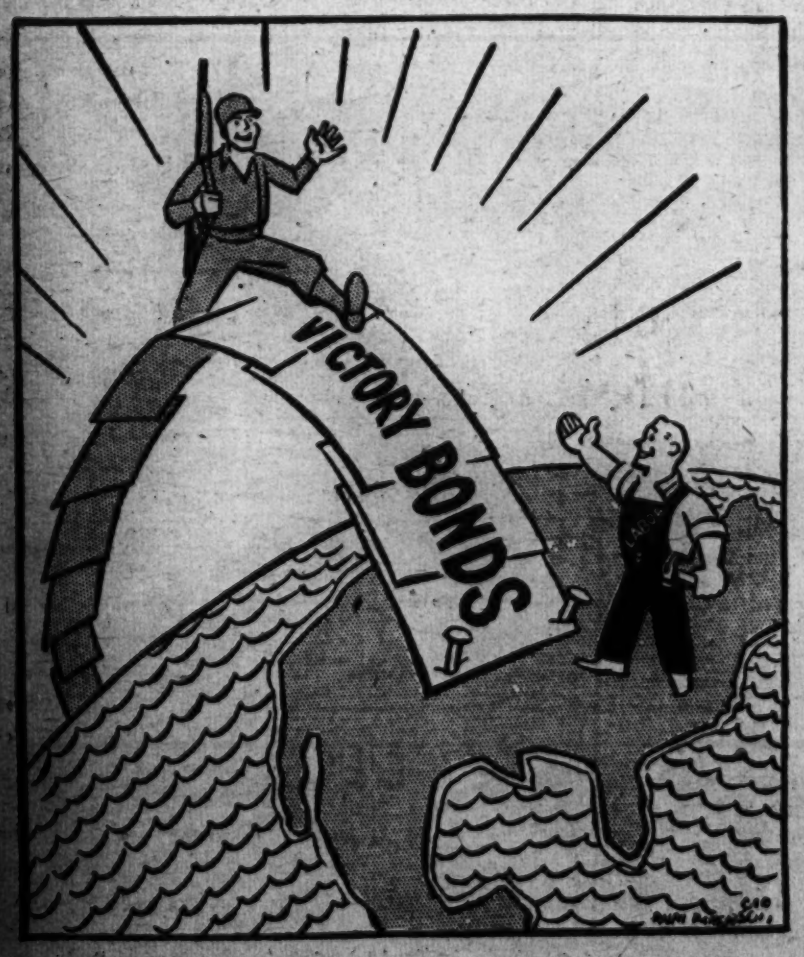
Our government is asking us to invest in the last bond drive for victory. The Victory Loan, which starts October 29 and ends December 8, will finance the bringing home of our servicemen and women, for hospitalization and rehabilitaton.

The members of FTA have had a great stake in the winning of the war, and have contributed their share toward the victory through all-out production of food and tobacco, through their purchases of war bonds, blood donations, and through their sons, daughters and husbands on the fighting fronts.

The job of winning the war is only through its initial stage. Now the business at hand is to bring home our fighting forces, provide medical care for those needing it, maintain our occupation forces in the conquered countries and do everything necessary to complete the plans made by Franklin Delano Roosevelt —to destroy the remains of fascism and concentrate all our energies on winning and achieving full employment and a prosperous and happy life for the people of our country.

Our members can be counted on now, as before, to take their place alongside the rest of the organized labor movement behind this Victory Loan.

HAROLD J. LANE, Secretary-Treasurer
DONALD HENDERSON, President



Indiana Locals Plan To Re-Open Wage Demands

Evansville, Ind.—A working program for Indiana locals around trade union education, political action and organizing work was mapped out at three sub-regional conferences held in Evansville, Sept. 16; Muncie, Sept. 23; and Indianapolis, Oct. 7, chaired by Acting Regional Director John F. Sloan.

Every local that has reopening clauses in its contracts was urged to notify management to reopen negotiations in line with the new FTA policy on wages which appeared in the Sept. 1 issue of FTA NEWS.

Trade union education was stressed as a means of activizing the membership of the locals. Several suggestions made to carry out this job were: setting aside a half hour at meetings to discuss the contract and the FTA Constitution; bulletin board reports on what is going on in the local; checking up to see that each member gets his copy of FTA NEWS; and sending delegates to the November Indiana-Illinois Regional Conference to be held in Indianapolis.

A motion was carried directing all locals to affiliate to the nearest CIO Council, and to send delegates who will report back to every membership meeting.

Affiliation to the Indiana State Political Action Committee was also urged of every local in order to participate in getting the most support for the CIO's program for a People's Peace. Here, too, it was stressed that the locals follow the Action Box appearing in each issue of the News and send letters to Congressmen and Senators on vital legislation.

Organizing Committees are to be set up in each local. These Committees will strive to get 100% union shops in their plants, as well as signing up workers in unorganized plants nearby.

Notes from Locals

Banquet Supper

45 **Richmond, Va.**—In addition to contributing $50 from the Local 45 treasury for the strike relief fund of the striking Lynchburg, Va., shoe workers, Local members went out and got individual contributions as well, in conjunction with Local 57.

The Local 45 banquet supper on Sept. 22 went over big with the membership. The Entertainment Committee provided fried chicken and all that goes with it. Furman Perry is Chairman of the Committee.

Aid Strikers

57 **Richmond, Va.**—In response to an appeal from the striking shoe workers in Lynchburg, Va., the members of Local 57 voted $25 from the treasury and collected close to $200 in contributions from individuals, foremen and foreladies at the Southern Biscuit plant, local businessmen, and from churches.

By Max Sussman, Bus. Agt.

UNION MEN IN UNIFORM

Home Again: Lonnie Burton, Local 57 member, (left) tells Bus. Agt. Max Sussman (center) and Int. Rep.-on-leave Chuck Feller (right) how it feels to be a civilian again after 3½ years in the Navy. Burton joined Local 57 immediately after he traded his Navy "whites" for baker's "whites" at the Southern Biscuit Co. He was first employed in the plant in 1934 and left to serve as a Gunners Mate 3/c in the Armed Guard aboard the Merchant Ships that delivered the goods to our boys in the European and Mediteranean theatres of operations.

While he expressed satisfaction on the progress the Union has made in the plant, Burton's first question was "Why in the heck haven't we got a Union Shop contract?" The workers assured him that we expect a Union Shop shortly because it was Item Number One on our list of demands. Burton spoke highly of the members of the CIO National Maritime Union with whom he has sailed these last few years. They have helped him keep in touch with the problems of labor on the home front.

Private Feller met Sussman and Burton on a surprise visit to the Local's headquarters in Richmond, Va. Feller, who is an Int. Rep. and member of Local 78, is stationed at Camp Lee, Va. Right now, he's doing all he can to counteract the anti-labor propaganda being spread among servicemen by giving them a straight picture of what goes on in the labor movement. Arrangements are being made to take Feller on a tour through the Richmond plants under contract to FTA.

Feller says that veterans returning from the Army should go to the Union Hall for information about his rights where he will get the right steer. While on tour through the Southern Biscuit plant, Feller listened in on a Grievance Committee meeting where the Union got the Company to keep the foremen from working the machines.

By Max Sussman, Business Agent, Local 57

A GI Suggests Improvements for

The GI Bill

By Sgt. Jack Fox

Int. Rep.-on-leave Jack Fox, recently returned from overseas, is stationed at Lowry Field in Colorado where he is giving pre-separation lectures to high-point men about to receive their discharges. As a result of his discussions with these men about the GI Bill of Rights, Sgt. Fox prepared the following article dealing with the shortcomings of the Bill.

WHILE the GI Bill of Rights is a fine idea, it just doesn't go far enough in its provisions for the veterans. It can be improved in the following fashion:

Educational Section

● **Allowance for subsistence for veterans attending trade school or college.** At present, a veteran is paid $50 (if single) and $75 (if married) to live on while going to school under the GI Bill. This makes no allowance for additional dependents other than his wife. While there is talk of raising the amount to $60 and $85 respectively, this amount does not cover living costs for a married man with children.

Living costs are very high in college towns, because many of them were not war centers and the OPA did not keep rents down enough. The present allowance for monthly subsistence should be raised to $75 a month for the unmarried vet, and $75 for the married students with $25 additional for each dependent.

● **Housing.** Unless something is done to include provisions for federal housing in college towns for veterans, many of the fellows won't be able to take advantage of the GI Bill. Today, many colleges are turning down veterans because of the housing shortage. This is part of the picture of the overall need for housing in the nation.

● **The Veterans Administration.** Many GIs attend school for two or three months without getting any checks from the VA. Some have been forced to quit school for lack of funds. Improvements should be called for in the VA to cut the red tape and speed up the works.

● **Medical care.** It is clear that the veteran cannot budget for medical care on the small allowance that he gets while at school. Health centers for veterans should be set up on the campus to provide free medical care at government expense.

● **Age Limit.** At present only vets under 25 years of age can get all the educational benefits of the GI Bill. Those over 25 get only one year. Abolish the age limit on educational provisions.

Loan Provisions

Of the 400 veterans I have spoken to in my lectures, I have not yet met one who actually plans to take advantage of these loan provisions. Some have asked questions about it, but have been pretty disgusted to hear the actual provisions of the bill.

Frankly, they should junk the whole thing and start all over again. Uncle Sam only guarantees half of a loan, not exceeding $2000. The loan is made from the bank and the vet has to convince the banker that the loan can be repaid before he can apply for government backing. Uncle Sam will pay the interest on the guaranteed portion for the first year. This amounts to $80 at 4% on a loan of $2000.

What is needed is a governmental agency with liberal provisions for veterans. This should be tied in with the Federal Housing Authority and the Farm Security Administration for housing and farms. Most vets want a loan to build a home, so that federal housing is their first need.

The Government should loan money to vets at about 4% and interest-free for a period of time equal to a guy's service in the Army. They should also allow veterans to pool their loan rights if they want to go into a business partnership.

In regard to the GI Bill as a whole, while the Educational provisions are the only decent break a vet can get from the Bill, actually only a small proportion of the vets are planning to take advantage of them. Most vets are interested in loans for housing, business, farms, etc. And they are in the majority. Therefore, such provisions in the bill bear considerable improvement.

CIO Vets Committee Urges Army To Use Mail For GI Discharges

Washington, D.C. — Anxious to speed up the discharge of men bottlenecked at Army Separation Centers, Clinton S. Golden, Chairman of the CIO Veterans Committee, urged the War Dept. to start sending discharges by mail.

"Lowering the points needed for discharge from the Army increases the need for a more efficient discharge system," Golden said in a letter to Maj. General S. G. Henry.

Explaining his proposal, he said "The Army could give the soldier about to be discharged his travel pay, impress his fingerprints and obtain his signature on a discharge blank.

"He could then be sent home on leave while his discharge papers are being processed. Then his discharge papers, final pay and allowances could be mailed to him.

"Our proposal," added Golden, "would make it possible to send home every GI almost as soon as his services can be dispensed with."

Although a soldier is processed in "less than 48 hours at the Separation Center, he has to wait from two weeks to three or more months before being sent there. All these weeks and months are worse than wasted. The Army has nothing for him to do. He must hang around . . . sweating out his orders . . .

"Officers already may receive terminal leave and get their certificate of service by mail," Golden explained. "The same sort of privilege ought to be extended to enlisted men."

The Story of Labor
REALIZING THAT THE INDIVIDUAL UNION, BY ITSELF WAS WEAK, 15 PHILADELPHIA TRADES JOINED IN 1827 TO FORM THE "MECHANICS UNION OF TRADE ASSOCIATIONS," FIRST OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD. IT WAS FIRST IN OTHER WAYS, TOO. IT STARTED THE FIRST LABOR PAPER, "THE MECHANICS FREE PRESS" AND THE FIRST LABOR PARTY, "THE WORKINGMEN'S PARTY." THE MOVEMENT SPREAD LIKE WILD FIRE THROUGH THE NATION.
LABOR FOUGHT FOR A 10-HOUR DAY, THE RIGHT TO VOTE WITHOUT PROPERTY TESTS, ABOLITION OF IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT, AND ESPECIALLY FOR "FREE, EQUAL, NON-SECTARIAN, REPUBLICAN" EDUCATION FOR THEIR CHILDREN. IN 1834 THE FIRST LABOR MAN WAS ELECTED TO CONGRESS FROM NEW YORK. ONLY THE PANIC OF 1837 BROUGHT A TEMPORARY HALT TO THE SURGE OF LABOR...
JOE WORKER
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I PROPOSE THAT ALL OUR SEPARATE UNIONS JOIN ONE BIG MECHANICS' UNION. BEN FRANKLIN SAID: WE EITHER HANG TOGETHER NOW OR WE'LL HANG SEPARATELY LATER!
YOU'VE GOT THE RIGHT IDEA! US BAKERS'LL JOIN!
...AND THE PRINTERS, TOO!
THE NEW MECHANICS UNION STARTED A LABOR PAPER IN 1828....
WUXTRY! WUXTRY! READ ALL ABOUT LABOR'S DEMANDS!
SHOCKING! WHAT'S THE WORLD COMING TO!
THERE'S PLENTY HOT SHOT IN YOUR FIRST ISSUE, ABE! ESPECIALLY THAT ARTICLE ABOUT WORKERS STICKING TOGETHER REGARDLESS OF DIFFERENCES IN RELIGION OR WHAT COUNTRY THEY CAME FROM!
WE FINALLY GOT THE VOTE! NOW LET'S ELECT MEN WHO KNOW OUR NEEDS. SEND ELY MOORE, PRESIDENT OF YOUR PRINTERS' UNION, TO CONGRESS!
THAT FELLOW IS MAD! DOESN'T HE KNOW ONLY THE RICH GO TO CONGRESS?
TIMES ARE CHANGING, FRIEND! DIDN'T YOU HEAR ANDREW JACKSON SAY THE COMMON FOLKS HAVE THE SAME RIGHTS AS THE RICH?
THE NEXT STEP WAS TO FIGHT FOR FREE PUBLIC SCHOOLS. EDUCATION WAS ONLY FOR THOSE WHO COULD AFFORD TO PAY. THE CHILDREN OF THE WORKERS GOT NONE AT ALL, OR CHARITY IN "PAUPER SCHOOLS" LIKE THIS....
TAKE THAT! YOU NASTY PAUPER! I DON'T KNOW WHY I BOTHER TEACHING POOR BRATS LIKE YOU! JUST MAKES YOU UPPISH, THAT'S ALL!
OW! ALL I ASKED WAS TO LEARN TO READ BETTER!
DEMOCRACY IS BASED ON UNIVERSAL EDUCATION, MR. SENATOR. IT MUST BE FREE, EQUAL AND NON-SECTARIAN...
WHO'S TO PAY FOR THIS NONSENSE? WHY DON'T THEY GO TO THE PAUPER SCHOOLS?
BECAUSE THEY'RE NOT PAUPERS! THE WEALTH OF THE STATE MUST EDUCATE THE CHILDREN OF THE STATE!
THE FIGHT WAS LONG AND BITTER. BUT LARGELY THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF LABOR, BY 1850 IT WAS WON THROUGHOUT THE NORTH....
NOW, RECITE THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE!
WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF-EVIDENT, THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL...
SOME DAY WE'LL EVEN HAVE FREE COLLEGES TOO!